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(54) **Process for producing maleic anhydride**

(57) A process for producing maleic anhydride is described, which comprises (i) reacting a hydrocarbon with oxygen in a vapor phase in the presence of a catalyst to yield a reaction mixture gas containing maleic anhydride, (ii) bringing the reaction mixture gas into contact with an organic solvent to collect the maleic anhydride in the organic solvent, (iii) separating at least part of the maleic anhydride from the organic solvent, (iv) washing with an aqueous alkali solution at least part of the organic solvent from which maleic anhydride has been separated, and (v) reusing the resultant washed organic solvent and the residual organic solvent for contact with the reaction mixture gas.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	WO 96 29323 A (HUNTSMAN CORPORATION) 26 September 1996 * the whole document, particularly page 23, line 3, to page 26, line 21 * -----	1-8	C07C51/215 C07C51/573 C07D307/60
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			C07C C07D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	
THE HAGUE		25 February 1999	
		Examiner	
		Allard, M	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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		AU 4684296 A	08-10-1996
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